

## Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 201330Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2240

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINTERST BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5345

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS: NO HOPE IN SIGHT

1. SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS, AS SEEN FROM CAIRO, CONTINUE AT LOW EBB AS ANTI-QADHAFI STUDENTS AIDED BY GOE SEIZE LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE IN CAIRO AND PRESIDENT SADAT TOURS WESTERN DESERT AREAS TO STRENGTHEN TRIBAL RESISTANCE TO LIBYAN BLANDISHMENTS. END SUMMARY

2. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 20 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE STORIES ON STRANGER-THAN-FICTION EVENTS AT LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE PREVIOUS DAY. EVENTS TRIGGERED BY OCCUPATION, EVENING OF APRIL 18, OF LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE BY LIBYAN STUDENTS PROTESTING "ATTACKS" ON STUDENTS AT TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI UNIVERSITIES EARLIER IN MONTH. OCCUPATION WAS FOR "INDEFINITE PERIOD" AND, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WHO ACCIDENTALLY ON SCENE, LIBYAN STUDENTS CLEARLY ABETTED

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BY GOE AUTHORITIES.

3. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, STUDENTS HAD IN FACT DECIDED TO END OCCUPATION AT 1900 ON APRIL 19, BUT "PROVOCATIVE ACTS" BY LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE DIRECTOR MILUD AL-SADIQ CAUSED THEM TO CHANGE THEIR MIND. WHAT IS CLEAR, FROM CIAOR RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS AND NEWSPAPER STORIES, IS THAT GOE, OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED BY LIBYAN EMBARRASSMENT, REFUSED TO INTERVENE ALLEGEDLY ON GROUNDS THAT RELATIONS OFFICE SOVEREIGN LIBYAN TERRITORY.

4. AT ANY RATE, SADIQ AND HIS PRO-QADHAFI FRIENDS APPARENTLY ENGAGED IN ROCK-THROWING EXCHANGE WITH STUDENTS OCCUPYING RELATIONS OFFICE AND FINALLY, LATE IN AFTERNOON OF APRIL 19, SADIQ REPORTEDLY FIRED OFF SUBMACHINE GUN (PRESUMABLY IN AIR: NO CASUALTIES HAVE YET BEEN REPORTED), AFTER WHICH BOTH RELATIONS OFFICE OCCUPIERS AND PRO-QADHAFI LIBYANS DISPRESED AND SADIQ REGAINED HIS OFFICE. COMPLAINT HAS BEEN MADE TO POLICE CONCERNING INCIDENT, BUT FOR PRESENT GOE APPEARS SATISFIED WITH PROPAGANDA.

5. IN MORE SERIOUS VEIN, PRESIDENT SADAT AND MINHOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION OSMAN TOURED NORTHERN SHORE AND WESTERN DESERT AREAS APRIL 19, APPARENTLY SEEKING TO COUNTER SUBVERSIVE LIBYAN EFFORTS AMONG WESTERN TRIBES WITH PROMISES OF MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR REGION IN NEAR FUTURE. LOCAL DAILIES APRIL 20 STATE THAT SEVEN NEW TOURIST AND INDUSTRIAL CITIES PLANNED FOR REGION, ALONG WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 23 NEW VILLAGES AND LAND RECLAMATION, PETROCHEMICAL, AND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. GUMHURIYYA BANNER-HEADLINES WESTERN DESERT TRIP, PRE-EMPTYING PEKING TRIP OF VP MUBARAK, WHILE AKHBAR AND AHRAH CARRY SADAT/OSMAN TOUR AS SECOND LEAD.

6. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 20 ALSO MAINTAINS FRONT-PAGE CRITICISM OF QADHAFI REGIME, REPORTING TRIAL OF THREE LIBYANS WHO PLANNED TO ASSASSINATE TUNISIAN PM NOUIRA. GUMHURIYYA NOTES THAT UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANT FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS AT QADHAFI FEW DAYS AGO. DAILY BROADCASTS BY EX-RCC MEMBER MUHAYSHI ALSO CONTINUE TO BE BEAMED AT LIBYA, ALTHOUGH THESE BECOMING BIT REPETITIOUS.

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7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SADAT TRADITIONALLY GIVES ATTENTION TO NORTHERN SHORE AND WESTERN DESERT WHEN TIME FOR HIS SUMMER VACATION IN AREA APPROACHES, GOE APPARENTLY FEELS NECESSITY TO COUNTER DISTRIBUTION OF LIBYAN CASH AMONG BORDER TRIBES. LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COOKING UP ANY MAJOR PROPAGANDA INITIATIVE AGAINST QADHAFI AT PRESENT, BUT APPEARS CONTENT TO REAP BENEFITS FROM LIBYAN UNIVERSITY

DISTRUBANCES, FARCES SUCH AS RELATIONS OFFICE OCCUPATION,  
AND UPCOMING TRIAL OF LIBYAN TERRORISTS IN TUNISIA.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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